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NEWS

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Nov. 29, 2001

Neal Welcome Center Groundbreaking Media Advisory

An official groundbreaking ceremony for the **Neal Welcome Center**, to be built at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Douglas Street (east of the Worthington Inn on the west side of Charleston), will be held at **10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 30**, at the building site.

The welcome center will serve as the **new home of the Eastern Illinois University Foundation and as a visitor's center for prospective EIU students and their parents and others** inquiring about Eastern and the surrounding area.

A \$2 million gift from Burnham Neal, the founder of Neal Tire and Auto Service stores located throughout the Midwest, and his family **will fund** the purchase of land and construction of the **7,000-plus square-foot, two-story facility**.

Jack Schultz, president of the EIU Foundation; Steve Falk, a consultant with the EIU Foundation; Mr. Neal; and Lou Hencken, EIU's interim president, will make brief remarks.

Mr. Schultz or Jon Laible, Foundation executive officer, will be available to speak to media following the groundbreaking.

For more information, please contact Shelly Flock, director of media relations, at 581-7648.

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.